AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for diagnosing ~~the likelihood and severity of cardiovascular disease~~ <u>ongoing pathology or prediction of early pathogenic reaction for cardiovascular disease</u> in a patient, comprising the steps of:

    a) determining a level of antibodies<u>, wherein said antibodies are able to bind to</u> ~~against~~ an autoantigen or a corresponding recombinant antigen or synthetic peptide for cardiovascular disease in a <u>saliva</u> sample from said patient; and

    b) comparing the level of antibodies determined in step a) with normal levels of said antibodies <u>in saliva</u>, wherein

        normal levels of autoantigen antibodies for cardiovascular disease indicate optimal conditions; and

        higher than normal levels of autoantigen antibodies for cardiovascular disease indicate ongoing pathology or prediction of early pathogenic reaction for cardiovascular disease.

2. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the autoantigen for cardiovascular disease is selected from the group consisting of myosin, oxidized LDL, heat shock protein-60, β-2-glycoprotein-1, platelet glycoprotein, and immune complexes.

3. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein determining the level of antibodies in steps a) and b) is accomplished using an immunoassay.

4. (Original) The method according to Claim 3, wherein the immunoassay is an ELISA test.

5. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the antibodies in steps a) and b) is measured from saliva.

6. (Original) The method according to Claim 5, wherein the measured antibodies are IgA.